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IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle air conditioning system comprising:

an air conditioning unit for generating air-conditioned air, which is provided with a ventilation opening and a defroster opening;

a ventilation duct connected to the air conditioning unit at the ventilation opening, which conducts the air-conditioned air to a ventilation outlet;

a defroster duct connected to the air conditioning unit at the defroster opening, which conducts the air-conditioned air to a defroster outlet; and

an additional duct branching off from the defroster duct, which conducts the air-conditioned air from the defroster duct to ~~an additional outlet~~ an upper ventilation outlet which is provided on an upper surface of an instrument panel to blow the air-conditioned air toward the upper rear of a passenger compartment.

2. (Original) The vehicle air conditioning system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a switching damper for selectively conducting the air-conditioned air from the defroster duct to either the defroster outlet or the additional outlet.

3. (Original) The vehicle air conditioning system according to claim 2, further comprising:

an open/close damper for opening and closing passage of the air-conditioned air of the additional duct.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Withdrawn) The vehicle air conditioning system according to claim 1, wherein

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the additional outlet comprises a rear ventilation outlet provided near a vehicle rear seat.

6. (Original) The vehicle air conditioning system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a ventilation damper for opening and closing the ventilation opening of the air conditioning unit, wherein the ventilation damper is controlled to open and close the ventilation opening in dependence on a selected air distribution mode, and wherein

the defroster opening is kept open irrespective of the selected air distribution mode.

7. (Currently Amended) A vehicle air conditioning system comprising:

an air conditioning unit for generating air-conditioned air;

first and second ducts connected to the air conditioning unit, the first duct conducting the air-conditioned air to a ventilation outlet, the second duct conducting the air-conditioned air to a defroster outlet; and

a third duct branching off from the second duct, which conducts the air-conditioned air to one of an upper ventilation outlet provided on an upper surface of an instrument panel ~~to distribute the air-conditioned air to a vehicle rear seat~~ **to blow the air-conditioned air toward the upper rear of a passenger compartment** or a rear ventilation outlet provided near the a vehicle rear seat.

8. (Currently Amended) A vehicle air conditioning system comprising:

an air conditioning unit for generating air-conditioned air;

a first path for conducting the air-conditioned air from the air conditioning unit to a ventilation outlet;

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a second path for conducting the air-conditioned air from the air conditioning unit to a defroster outlet; and

a third path branching off from the second path for conducting the air-conditioned air to an additional outlet other than the ventilation outlet and the defroster outlet.